

From: Winifred Wake
Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Yard and Lawn Maintenance By-law PH-9

Attention Clerk's office:

Please add our letter below to the agenda for this week's Council meeting. We give consent for it to be attached to the agenda.

Winifred and David Wake

From: Winifred Wake
Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 8:46 AM
To: 'hmc alister@london.ca' <hmc alister@london.ca>; 'slewis@london.ca' <slewis@london.ca>; 'pcuddy@london.ca' <pcuddy@london.ca>; 'sstevenson@london.ca' <sstevenson@london.ca>; 'jpribil@london.ca' <jpribil@london.ca>; 'strosow@london.ca' <strosow@london.ca>; 'corahman@london.ca' <corahman@london.ca>; 'slehman@london.ca' <slehman@london.ca>; 'ahopkins@london.ca' <ahopkins@london.ca>; 'pvanmeerbergen@london.ca' <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>; 'sfranke@london.ca' <sfranke@london.ca>; 'epelozalondon.ca' <epelozalondon.ca>; 'dferreira@london.ca' <dferreira@london.ca>; 'shillier@london.ca' <shillier@london.ca>; 'mayor@london.ca' <mayor@london.ca>
Subject: Yard and Lawn Maintenance By-law PH-9

Dear Mayor and Members of London City Council,

For some time, the City of London has been on record as a promoter of native biodiversity within its boundaries. Under current wording and enforcement practices, the Yard and Lawn Maintenance By-law PH-9 has been inhibiting actions by private citizens wishing to establish natural gardens and wildflower meadows that would support this goal. In addition to adding to biodiversity, such spaces have numerous other well-documented benefits to human and environmental well being.

Awareness that a complaint by an anonymous neighbour can trigger a visit from a by-law enforcement officer serves as a deterrent to property owners. Such people might otherwise take steps to create an ecologically valuable naturalized landscape on all or part of their property.

It is time for the by-law to be reviewed and revised to address numerous aspects of its content that are unclear, out-of-touch with current best practices regarding biodiversity and weed control, or otherwise problematic.

Instead of supporting a review and update of By-law PH-9, at its meeting of Aug 15/23, the Civic Works Committee voted that staff be instructed to prepare an educational pamphlet. While useful (and best undertaken AFTER a by-law update), this simplistic solution is insufficient to address the complexity and legal implications of this issue.

I strongly urge you to take action to initiate a review and update of Yard and Lawn Maintenance By-law PH-9.

Sincerely,

Winifred Wake and David Wake